

## Historic Building Appraisal

### Tsz Tak Study Hall

#### Fanling Wai, Fanling

Tsz Tak Study Hall (思德書室) in Fanling Wai (粉嶺圍), Fanling, is erected **Historical Interest** by Pang Po-chun (彭步進) in the 26<sup>th</sup> year of Daoguang (道光, 1846) reign of the Qing (清) dynasty to commemorate Pang Sze-yan (彭思隱), the sixth generation ancestor of the Pang clan in the Wai. The Pangs moved to Lung Yeuk Tau (龍躍頭) from Dongguan (東莞) in 1220 and then to Fan Ling Lau (粉嶺樓) village. Some of them moved to the Wai due to the increase of clan population. The hall is also used for ancestral worship of the Sze-yan lineage. His soul tablet, being the largest, with others are on display in rows at the altar for worship. The study hall had the function to provide education for the village children. Around 20 to 30 children were taught at the study hall. A Fan Ling Public School (粉嶺公立學校) was set up in the venue in 1936 and subsidized by the government. Lower classes of primary 1 to 4 were taught in 1948. A separate school complex was constructed to its north-east for the School in 1957 and the study hall has ceased its function to be a school from then on.

The study hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a **Architectural Merit** two-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The courtyard is between the two halls and flanked by two side chambers, one on each side. It is in symmetrical design with the altar at the far end of the central axis in the middle of the main hall. The building was constructed of green bricks with its walls and granite columns supporting the pitched flushed gable roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls of the building have been plastered and painted with false brick lines in a recent renovation in 2000. The recessed entrance has granite curbs and steps. The ridges are with mouldings of geometric pattern to both end and dragons, unicorns and pearl in the middle. Its fascia boards and wall friezes have carvings, mouldings and paintings of calligraphy, auspicious patterns of landscape, flowers-and rocks and treasures.

It is a study hall to witness the historic past of the Pangs in Fanling. The medium size hall has considerable built heritage value. **Rarity & Built Heritage Value**

The recent renovation has turned the side chambers' roofs into reinforced concrete ones and its windows aluminium. This would diminish its authenticity. **Authenticity**

The Pang Ancestral Hall and this building in the same village have related group value. **Group Value**

Ancestral worship was held at the study hall on each 5<sup>th</sup> day of the second ***Social Value***, lunar month by elders of over 60 or those interested in the ritual. Two basin meals ***& Local*** (盆菜) would be served at the hall after the ceremony, one at noon and the other ***Interest*** at 5 in the afternoon.